



# JEFFERSON PARK EXPANSION PROJECT ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #5

Thursday, March 16, 2006  
Jefferson Lawn Bowling Clubhouse

## MEETING SUMMARY

**PAT Members Present:** Mira Latoszek                      Shellwyn Badger  
Monique Cherrier                      Mike Carney  
Stuart McFeely                      Steve Galey  
Bert Caoili                      Nancy Spurgeon

**PAT Members Absent:** Bruce Bentley

**Other attendees:** Randy Smith, Jefferson Community Center Coordinator  
Randy Robinson, Project Manager  
Andy Mitton, The Berger Partnership  
Raft Hollingsworth, Parks Ballfield Coordinator  
Larry Glaser, Parks Golf Program

**Meeting Facilitator:** Cheryl Fraser, Parks South Resource Manager

**Welcome:** Meeting was started promptly at 6:30 pm.

**Guest Comments:** No comments

**Previous Meeting Notes:** Meeting notes from 1/19/05 were not approved because there was not a quorum.

**Project Progress Report:** **Randy R.** gave an update on the project schedule: The Seattle Parks Board approved the Jefferson Park Schematic Design Plan on March 9, 2006. Seattle Public Utilities will conduct a public meeting for the Beacon Reservoir Project on April 26, 2006 at Jefferson Community Center.

The goal for tonight's meeting is to make final decisions about what elements will proceed into Design Development. Costs will be relevant in this work.

**Design Vocabulary Discussion:** **Randy** asked that each PAT member give a brief overview of the design vocabulary homework assignment from last meeting.  
**Andy** described the example that The Berger Partnership mailed out earlier this month.  
**Mira** described her ideas about design for the community center areas as a meeting place for interacting. The northeast corner as a "gateway" entry from both Beacon Ave. and Spokane Street (around fire station). The trolley/ bus shelter area could have lots of fragrance, shade tolerant plants, flowers, etc. The NE corner could be a picnic area reminiscent of the Japanese picnic grounds from past years (different location). The Grand Lawn would have many games and activities with soft edges like Seward Park stage area. Grand Lawn needs a focal point. The Overlook could be an iconic place that is not natural, with art maybe that records history. Walkways would be open to all - no barriers, with frequent resting places.

## **Design Vocabulary Discussion (cont.)**

Stormwater feature would be like Mount Baker Park that is a cool refuge with sounds of soft water flowing. The Sports Plateau would be designed as to be non exclusive - open to everyone, especially kids and be environmentally friendly. The East Edge of the Park should have an active edge with a clear separation from the golf facilities and community gardens.

**Monique** agreed with Mira about the Community Center area being a meeting place reminiscent of a European café – a place to bump into your neighbor. The Grand Lawn would be a place to gather as groups and for festivals. The Playground area would be a safe family gathering space. The Overlook Berm is seen as a good space for all ages to watch the fireworks and general viewing. The Promenade is like the walk on Beacon Ave. but circular – it should accommodate both passive walking and exercise. The Sports Plateau should be a place where parents can be also. Stormwater feature could have an Asian theme. Consider celebrating the Italian heritage of the neighborhood as well. The park needs to somehow be inviting from the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue side.

**Nancy** mentioned that for her, safety comes first. Safety should be a prime concern in the design of water features, the play area, etc. There should also be safe things for kids to touch and smell – some sense of wildness would be good.

**Bert** commented that the annual Filipino festival that is currently held at the amphitheatre area of Seward Park could be held in the Grand Lawn of Jefferson Park.

**Stuart** explained that the design of the park was just fine as it stands but that it is a good idea to study a few design ideas. He sees the Asian influenced rock wall gardens of Beacon Hill as being distinct to Beacon. The Olmsted legacy is important also – the Grand Lawn is like Prospect Park in New York. Large spaces are good as well as more intimate gathering spaces around the edges. Spaces should be diverse in their character. Consider natural forest areas with vistas and framed views. Not all aspects of the park need to be safe and open. The water features are impractical at this stage of the project. We should concentrate on the basic features of the park such as grading, etc. that sets the stage for future phases that could implement the smaller pieces of the Plan. Shape it once and for all.

## **Design Development Workshop**

Andy passed out a small color coordinated priority plan with accompanying cost estimate. Large plans were rolled out on the table and the following discussion ensued:

### **The Northeast Corner and Community Center Area:**

Sense of entry is important off of Beacon and around fire station.

Pathway should not pass through the play area but maybe be to one or the other side.

Picnic tables or other elements could be considered for the space between the tennis courts and fire station.

Plaza as a “donut” with a paving ring and grass in the middle might be a good idea. Plaza should have some proximity to the gym. The plaza that

## **Design Development Workshop (cont.)**

will be adjacent to the gym will not be built until the community center addition project.

Water feature space can be considered as an element that helps to define or frame regional views if not built.

Relocating some or all of the community garden space adjacent to the community center was discussed. Several members thought this would be a good place for a garden space given proximity to parking lot for elderly.

### **The Grand Lawn and Northwest Area**

The Promenade path is a must.

The storm water feature would be good but only if the price could be kept reasonable.

Irrigation was discussed at length with opinions ranging from irrigating all of the turf areas of the northern part of the park to none of the turf areas. Edge slope areas would be un-irrigated in either scenario.

Basic water source and valves are included in the costs of infrastructure.

The Overlook area should be generous for several or many people to gather there for views.

Entry at Spokane and LaFayette should be there but not overstated so as to encourage people cutting across Spokane Street traffic.

Entry at Spokane and 16<sup>th</sup> by the SPU lab building and the pathway up from 16<sup>th</sup> Street into the park is important.

Pathways around lower water feature and community garden space are not as important.

### **The Sports Plateau**

A second baseball field configuration was discussed with at least two options available. Surfacing of the fields was left as an unsatisfactory choice of un-irrigated grass that would be ruined immediately, irrigated grass which would be ruined eventually, and sand/silt field which would be dusty and need dust control irrigation. Discussion included an option of not developing sports facilities on the lid of the reservoir until funding comes on line in the future for synthetic turf.

The entry and path at Dakota and 16<sup>th</sup> was mentioned as being critical to draw people in from the western side of the park. No other improvements will be made on the western terrace side.

The restroom in the old Gate House is still seen as being a high priority for the PAT. It was suggested that the comfort station may be relocated from its location shown in the master plan to the south edge of the Sports Plateau to serve the Samoan Cricket players. San-i-cans may be the only solution for Samoan Cricket season at Jefferson Playfield.

Relocated community garden space was discussed briefly.

Two basketball courts would be money well spent.

Community Center parking addition is money well spent.

Lawn bowling is not interested in changing the entry to their facility at this time.

**Conclusion:** Randy concluded the meeting by stating that the ideas and direction that came out of this meeting would be synthesized with other information and we would come back on May 18<sup>th</sup> with a Design Development Plan to review. A play area subcommittee is forming to look at detailed design of the play area. Anyone interested in the play area subcommittee can contact Randy – someone outside the PAT would be welcome.

**Next meeting:** Next PAT meeting is May 18th, 2006. Some of us will meet at 5:30 for a lawn bowling lesson from Chuck Cady. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm.

**Meeting Summary By:** rfr

**Additional Information is Available:**

- Park web site: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/JeffersonPark.htm>
- Randy Robinson, Seattle Parks Project Manager, (206) 684-7035; [randy.robinson@seattle.gov](mailto:randy.robinson@seattle.gov)
- Cheryl Fraser, Parks Resources Manager, (206) 684-8016; [cheryl.fraser@seattle.gov](mailto:cheryl.fraser@seattle.gov)